Message Text

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ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 TRSE-00 XMB-02

FRB-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /037 W

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P 291950Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7333

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 6393

FOR OPIC

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EFIN

SUBJECT: BAN ON REPATRIATION

REF: STATE 238140

- 1. REGULATIONS FOR THE FOREIGN INVESTMENT LAW STILL HAVE NOT BEEN PUBLISHED AND THERE IS NO INDICATION YET WHEN THEY WILL BE. WALL STREET CORRESPONDENT WHO WROTE ARTICLE ON REPATRIATION RESTRICTIONS INFORMED EMBASSY HE OBTAINED INFORMATION SOLELY FROM LOCAL PRESS STORIES. THESE ARTICLES REPORTED THAT THE FOREIGN INVESTMENT REGULATIONS WILL NOT PERMIT REMITTANCES OF PROFITS AND OF CAPITAL FOR A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS BECAUSE OF BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DIFFICULTIES. THE ARTICLES ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IN THE EVENT REMITTANCES ARE NOT PERMITTED, THE INVESTOR MAY OBTAIN EXTERNAL BONDS FROM THE CENTRAL BANK FOR AN EQUIVALENT AMOUNT.
- 2. PASA DEPUTY FINANCIAL DIRECTOR OUTES INFORMED EMBASSY REQUEST FOR REMITTANCE OF DEBENTURES AND INTEREST OWED TO METROPOLITAN LIFE IS UNDER CONSIDERATION OF WALTER KLEIN, SECRETARY FOR PROGRAMMING AND COORDINATION IN MINISTRY OF ECONOMY. OUTES SAID HE IS OPTIMISTIC THAT PASA WILL BE ALLOWED TO REMIT THESE PAYMENTS.

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3. THE EMBASSY CURRENTLY CONVERTS DOLLARS AT RATE OF 247

PESOS/DOLLARS. USG USE OF PESOS HAS BEEN AVERAGING 12 MILLION PESOS/MONTH AND ACCOMMODATION EXCHANGE 26 MILLION PESOS/MONTH. IF PASA IS ENTITLED TO RECEIVE DOLLAR-DENOMINATED INTEREST BEARING EXTERNAL BONDS, OPIC MAY FIND IT ADVANTAGEOUS TO HOLD THE BONDS UNTIL CONVERTIBILITY RESTRICTIONS ARE LIFTED RATHER THAN SELL THE PESOS TO THE EMBASSY.

4. EMBASSY WILL REPORTANY FIRM INFORMATION ON WHETHER REMITTANCE RESTRICTIONS WILL APPLY TO DEBENTURES AND INTEREST PAYMENTS AS WELL. HILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: REPATRIATION, FOREIGN INVESTMENT, LAW

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 29 SEP 1976 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BUENOS06393

Document Number: 1976BUENOS06393 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D760367-1275 From: BUENOS AIRES Handling Restrictions: n/a Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976099/aaaaahei.tel Line Count: 72

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION OPIC Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a

Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 76 STATE 238140
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG

Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: Review Date: 14 JUL 2004

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MÁY 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: BAN ON REPATRIATION

TAGS: EFIN, AR
To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006